

SPACE & MISSILE TIMES

Friday, Sept. 10, 2004

Vandenberg AFB, Calif.

Vol. 14, No. 35



Base Briefs

POW/MIA DAY

POW/MIA Day events begin at 2 p.m. Sept. 14 at the base POW/MIA memorial in front of the library.

GATE PROCEDURES

Gate guards will physically handle and inspect I.D.'s before allowing access to the base. To make this process faster, remove I.D.'s from wallets or holders before handing them to the entry controllers.

FIT TRACKER

Fit to Fight Activity Tracker is now available to the entire base at warfit@Vandenberg.af.mil. Members can log their personal fitness programs and units can track their members' fitness activities and assessments. For more information, call 606-2221.

SIGN CHANGE

The yield sign at the intersection of Oregon and Utah avenues will be changed to a stop sign in September.

OFFICE CLOSURE

Vandenberg's Financial Service Flight will be closed Sept. 17 at noon for an official function. If emergency financial assistance is needed, call 588-9282.

MEDICAL MEETING

The 30th Medical Group is conducting a town hall meeting at 6 p.m. Monday on changes occurring at the Vandenberg Clinic.

BIRTHDAY MEAL RESCHEDULED

The Quarterly Birthday Meal begins at 5:30 p.m. Sept. 23 at Beachcomber Dining Facility for enlisted members who have a birthday in July, August or September. To sign up, call 606-3219 or 606-5496 by Sept. 14.

TUITION INCREASE

California is increasing the enrollment fee for its community colleges from \$18 per unit to \$26 per unit. Students do not have to get additional tuition assistance forms but must personally go to any Allan Hancock College location to clear the bill. Do not ignore the bill. Failure to clear it will prevent any future registration requests either in person or on-line. For more information call 605-5915 or 734-3500.

TDY OPPORTUNITY

Vandenberg's personnel readiness function is looking for active-duty, Reserve and Guard captains to volunteer for temporary-duty assignments in January for 179 days in the Ukraine. Call Tech. Sgt. Steven Deluc at 606-7574 for more information.



PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. NELSON JAMES



PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS KURT GIBBONS

Tops in Blue electrifies Central Coast



PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS MATTHEW REED

Top left: Senior Airman Erin Holzapfel performs a solo during the Tops in Blue performance Saturday. Tops in Blue is an entertainment showcase that is performed entirely by active-duty Airmen. The free event took place in the gymnasium of the Cabrillo High school. The show was open to both the military and civilian public. Above: 1st Lt. Matthew Fuller woos the audience during Tops in Blue's "Musicology." The Tops in Blue team starts off their nine-month tour with an intense 45-day training period. During the training, the entertainers not only practice to perfect their trade, but also learn to set-up the stage their performances are on. Bottom left: Airman 1st Class David Weaver plays a guitar set with Staff Sgt. Ricky Hendricks Jr.

Suicide prevention program offers answers, directions

By AIRMAN 1ST CLASS BRYAN FRANKS
30th Space Wing Public Affairs

■ Suicide has claimed the lives of 32 Airmen this year, including the life of one Team Vandenberg member.

"People commit suicide because they feel hopeless and helpless regarding any future improvement in the pain and depression they feel," said Maj. Stephen Tueller, 30th Medical Group. "We don't have all the answers as to why people kill themselves, but we do know that they were in tremendous emotional pain and felt there was no alternative."

"It's hard for those left behind to understand why their loved one or friend would take their own life, so education is a large part of understanding why suicide occurs," Major Tueller said.

This is where the Vandenberg Suicide Prevention Program comes in to educate base Airmen about the tragedy of suicide.

The suicide prevention program provides mandatory briefs to educate people on what to look for and be aware of when encountering possible suicidal behavior or statements.

Suicide prevention briefs emphasize the importance of taking a community-based approach to preventing suicides, with Airmen taking a personal interest in each other and helping connect individuals in need with appropriate resources, such as the Family Support Center, base chaplains, the Life Skills Support Center,

and the Health and Wellness Center, among others.

"Suicide prevention not only means looking after others, but also practicing good self care and seeking help if you're having problems," said Capt. Arlin Hatch, a clinical psychologist and the Vandenberg Suicide Prevention Project Officer.

"If you notice someone acting unusually, appearing depressed, or saying they're suicidal, it's important to ask if the person if he or she is considering suicide," he said. "If so, don't leave the person alone, notify the person's commander or first sergeant if active duty, and seek guidance from a Life Skills mental health professional or call 911 immediately."

According to Major Tueller, a person at risk for suicide in the Air Force is statistically a white male from the ages of 18-24 undergoing disciplinary action or under investigation, depressed, have financial problems, recently lost a relationship and have increased their alcohol use.

The Air Force established the suicide prevention program in 1996 to help curb the high rate of suicide among airmen.

Since its inception, suicide rates have gone down but the problem still remains the second leading cause of death in the Air Force – second only to unintentional injury. In fact, before 1996 the Air Force lost 60 members

See PREVENTION Page A2

Posturing plan produces more capable Air Force

By MASTER SGT. SCOTT ELLIOTT
Air Force Print News

■ The major worldwide troop movement unveiled Aug. 16 by the president will result in a service that is better able to meet the needs of warfighting commanders, Air Force planning officials at the Pentagon said.

While most of the 70,000 service members who return from overseas to the United States will be Soldiers, the Air Force has played a major role in the integrated global presence and basing strategy, said Lt. Col. Keith Cunningham, former deputy chief of the Air Force strategy and integration division.

"The Air Force fully supports the secretary of defense and combatant commanders' requirements," Colonel Cunningham said. "This basing strategy will strengthen the Air Force's ability to respond rapidly with agility, precision and lethality."

The key is improving

capabilities, not preoccupation with troop strength, the colonel said.

"We used to measure capability in sheer numbers of troops," he said. "We (now) measure it in a lot of different ways. We're very capability-focused. We probably have more capability in some areas of the world that we ever had, but we have less troops there."

Major Air Force installations in Germany would be untouched by the reduction plans, said Gen. Charles F. Wald, deputy commander of U.S. European Command.

The Air Force is not moving forces as dramatically as the Army is because it already has, Colonel Cunningham said. The Air Force's major transformation began in the early 1990s, shortly after Operation Desert Storm, when the service relocated thousands of Airmen and several weapon

See POSTURE Page A2

In this issue of the



Also view
The Space & Missile Times at
www.vandenberg.af.mil and click
the Space & Missile Times button.



Team V members are offered chance to learn the ins and outs of motorcycle safety. See Page A2.



Destinations Central Coast ventures north for some beach action at Avila Beach. See Page B1.

Weekend forecast
Cloudy Saturday and partly cloudy Sunday.
Low/High
50/71
For a full Vandenberg weather report, visit
www.vandenberg.af.mil/30sw/organizations/30og/weather/weather_index.html

Motorcycle safety course is must at Vandenberg

By Tech. Sgt. Mark McKinney
30th Space Wing Public Affairs

■ Riding a motorcycle is one of those things in life that people have to experience in order to appreciate. Mere talking about it or watching someone else do it doesn't quite get the point across. The point being, the sheer exhilaration felt by motorcycle enthusiasts everywhere.

However, before hitting that road, bikers must first successfully navigate the California Motorcycle Safety course. Active duty Airmen and civil service employees can attend the course by

signing up through the 30th Space Wing Ground Safety office. The big selling point is that the course costs more than \$200, but the base picks up the tab for qualifying Team V members.

New riders attend two class sessions and two range sessions. The class sessions are a combination of video and textbook learning. The class is broken down into several study groups that take assigned sections of the text, discuss them and determine the most valuable information to be shared with the rest of the class. The videos are used to reinforce the text and class discussions by giving

visual examples of situations, to include the correct and incorrect way to respond to those situations.

Out on the riding range, students actually mount their bikes and begin to ride. The format of the two days on the range is designed as a step-by-step process from pre-ride inspections to safely negotiating the riding course. The students range in experience from novice riders to those who've been on two wheels for years like Staff Sgt. Mike Bianco, 30th Space Communications Squadron.

"This class is something I had to take in order to register my bike on base," Sergeant Bianco said. "I can definitely see where the course is a benefit to those who want to learn how to ride and maybe haven't ridden before. It's great that people from the base can take this course free of charge."

The big thrust from the first few minutes in the classroom to the final evaluation on the range is safety and the basics. The instructors aim to set the foundation for riders to safely enjoy the pleasures of riding.

"My greatest goal is for each person who comes through this class to be able to learn the fundamentals of riding and to realize the importance of utilizing those fundamentals every time they ride a bike," said range instructor Walt Fulton. "I've been riding motorcycles for some 50 years and have never had a road accident. I credit my use of these same fundamentals we are teaching to the students in each of

these classes for that.

"This course is not designed to make anyone an expert," Mr. Fulton continued. "Each person completing this course will simply be armed with the basics of riding. At that point, the students will also be eligible to get permits, which in turn affords them the opportunity to go out and begin the process of practicing and becoming the best riders they can be. We can get you started, but you have to take it from there and become proficient."

As with the use of any equipment, especially machines used for transportation or recreation, there is a big responsibility that goes along with its use.

"Having a momentary lapse while driving a car or truck is not recommended, but it happens and it can be overcome," Mr. Fulton said. "That's not the case with a motorcycle. It takes total concentration the entire time you are operating one. If you make a mistake on a bike, it more than likely will be your last mistake. We try to teach students that when riding one of these machines, mistakes can and will be avoided as long as they're responsible enough to ride the right way."

Riding a motorcycle is something that young and old alike can enjoy all throughout the country. It represents an alternative means of transportation as well as a different way to recreate during valued free time away from work or school. However, before going out and purchasing a bike, the California Motorcycle Safety course should be every Airman's first stop.



PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS KURT GIBBONS

Senior Airman Thomas Mayhall, 30th Space Communications Squadron, rides his morotcycle demonstrating proper wear of saftey gear.

PREVENTION:

From Page A1

a year to suicide.

By 2001 that number had been cut in half, according to an article written by Lt. Col. Rick Campise of the Air Force's Suicide Prevention program.

Every Airman must receive a suicide prevention briefing every 15 months to coincide with the Air Expeditionary Force cycle.

Even with the program's success in reducing the service's suicide rate, incidents still occur.

"When a suicide occurs, we have to remind ourselves that, despite the best efforts of commanders, first sergeants, supervisors, friends and family, suicide is something that can still happen," Captain Hatch said. "Grief is a normal response to the death of a friend or loved one, but if bereavement begins to impair one's ability to function, it's important to seek professional help."

ALCON: Normal

AADD saves: 204 Days since last DUI: 32 DUI totals for the year: 16

30th OG	2	30th SW	1	614thSOPG	0
30th MSG	6	14th AF	0	381st TRG	5
30th MDG	1	30th LCG	0	576th FLTS	1

A general condition reflecting responsible alcohol use.

POSTURE:

From Page A1

systems.

"The president said (the military) is more responsive (if based) at home," the colonel said. "To do that, we need to invest more in the ability to get our forces to where we want them – through the mobility system, to forward-operating sites and into cooperative security locations."

While the plan is specifically designed to increase capability and flexibility, Colonel Cunningham said individual service members would see quality-of-life improvements as well.

"Military members can expect more time between deployments and more notice of when they will deploy," he said. "That shift will give them better predictability and quality of life. That's how this will affect the Airman on the street."

The entire program may take more than 10 years to complete, Colonel Cunningham said.

"It's very complicated, in that there are moving parts all over the world," he said. "Some, with higher priority, will happen soon. Others will be phased over time."

Another complicating piece of the puzzle is where to put all of these homebound service members.

There are base realignment and closure implications, Colonel Cunningham said.

"We have all these troops coming back to the United States, but where are they going to go?" he asked.

The colonel said BRAC and basing strategy "are two sides of a coin," as a senior defense official said in a press briefing after the president's announcement.

"This new plan is a good thing," Colonel Cunningham said. "We're supporting the combatant commanders and posturing our forces to better meet the challenges of the future."

Check out our on-line news at www.vandenberg.af.mil/30sw/news

SPACE & MISSILE TIMES

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For information about the Space & Missile Times, call the staff at (805) 606-2040.



September 11th: A day to reflect on sacrifice, hope

By COL. FRANK GALLEGOS
30th Space Wing commander

We're coming up on the third anniversary of the day the world stopped turning, as one prominent singer described it. I bet everyone who reads this can remember exactly what they were doing when they first saw the images of the passenger jets hitting the World Trade Center towers.

I was serving as the operations group commander at F.E. Warren AFB, Wyoming about to conduct a pre-departure briefing. As we watched the horrific images, we hoped against hope that it was an accident, even though we knew in our hearts America was under attack. Most of us watched as the second aircraft struck the World Trade Center, confirming our worst fears. And just when we thought things couldn't get worse, we saw images of the Pentagon burning and the towers crumbling down and heard a report of another airliner crashing into a field in Pennsylvania. We wondered when it would end. Thus started the Global War on Terrorism. Almost three thousand Americans died that day, victims of hatred and a radical ideology opposed to freedom and liberty.

We had many emotions on September 11, 2001; fear, anger, and sadness were eventually joined by pride and love of country as we watched the selfless acts of heroism by our first responders and heard of the heroic struggle of the passengers of Flight 93 whose courage thwarted another attack on a major American icon, perhaps Congress or the White House. I think those of us in the military responded just a little differently than the rest of America. The emotions were the same, but the sadness was compounded by the realization many of us would soon be called on to leave our loved ones and head to war, some never to return.

30th Space Wing vectors

Unleash human talent
Airmen
Wing mission
Knowledge to command the future
Safety

And the call did come. Soon, America's sons and daughters were toppling a terrorist nation. That was followed up by the War in Iraq in which America's newest greatest generation toppled one of the world's leading terrorists and sowed the seeds of democracy that will hopefully help to end the terrorist threat. We are engaged all over the world in what will be a long struggle, a struggle for liberty and the freedom to live without fear. We are reminded almost daily that this fight will continue for some time to come, most recently as we watched the horrifying scenes from Russia as terrorists killed hundreds of their citizens, many of them children.

The war has not come without sacrifice. More than a thousand United States troops have paid with their lives. Many more will fall before the war is over. We are deeply saddened by every loss and we mourn each passing, even as we honor their sacrifice.

At Team V, many of our folks recently learned they, like so many others before them, will be leaving loved ones behind and deploying overseas, many to the front lines in Iraq and Afghanistan. Why? September 11, 2001. To those who are going, take pride in being able to answer your country's call to arms in her defense. My promise to you is we will do everything in our power to support your families while you are away.

As I look back on September 11th three years removed, I think the day has come to stand for everything that is great about America. It stands for sacrifice and hope. We honor the sacrifice of those Americans who have given the "last full measure of devotion" for their nation and we find hope in their sacrifice....hope that one day the threat of terrorism will be extinguished and hope for a bright future for a nation so full of freedom-loving patriots willing to make the ultimate sacrifice in defense of the nation they love. Go HAWKS!

Commander's Action Line
Call 606-7850 or
E-mail your message to
actionline@vandenberg.af.mil



Col. Frank Gallegos
commander

By performing Vandenberg's mission safely and effectively, Team V provides proof of its commitment to do the right thing.

Two-way communication is paramount to continued mission success. The 30th Space Wing Commander's Action Line is your direct link to me.

Through the action line you can congratulate your teammates on a job well done, affect change and express productive points of view.

I want your input and I am personally involved in every response.

The action line is always available and it's an excellent tool, but remember to

use your chain of command. Talk to your supervisors, first sergeants, services officials and other base professionals and give them a chance to solve your problem first.

Working together, we will enrich the 30th SW mission performance and the quality of life of our Airmen.

When calling the action line, leave your name and phone number in case more information is needed.

Do you have a perspective or experience you want to share with TeamV? Write about it and E-mail it to SMT@vandenberg.af.mil or call 606-3595.

HAWKS'

Point of View

"Where were you Sept. 11, 2001?"

"Working at the Commissary in Anchorage, Alaska." — Bobbie-Jo Roen



"Doing Security Forces guard mount on base." — Master Sgt. Wesley Asleson 30th Security Forces Squadron

"Sheppard AFB, Texas in BMET tech school." — Airman 1st Class Guillermo Mier 30th SFS



"At home fixing breakfast." — Margaret Myers

"Working at a Dialysis clinic in Buffalo, N.Y." — Capt. Carolyn Zablonksi, 30th Medical Group



Secretary, chief send Patriot Day message

The following is a Patriot Day message from Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James G. Roche and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper:

"On the third anniversary of Sept. 11, 2001, the world will remember those tragically lost (because of) the heinous actions of terrorists in New York, the Pentagon and Pennsylvania. These were attacks against freedom, democracy and humanity that carried a high human toll as citizens from the United States and many other

countries lost their lives.

"This Patriot Day, we honor the memories of those lost, and we pay tribute to those answering freedom's call to combat terrorism around the world.

"Your efforts over the last three years have been phenomenal. You continue to professionally safeguard the skies of America. You have dispersed al-Qaida and toppled the Taliban government in Afghanistan. And, you were instrumental in ending a cruel regime in Iraq and ensuring that

a new, democratic government could take root.

"Our superior total force of active duty, Guard, Reserve and civilian Airmen continue to brilliantly answer America's call to defend peace and freedom. Our country is confident in your capabilities and proud of your service.

"Unfortunately, on this, the third Patriot Day, our mission is not complete. Those who indiscriminately killed more than 3,000 people on Sept. 11, are still dedicated to terrorizing our nation and the world because

we value life, believe in liberty and welcome democracy as the people's voice.

"Let's remember those who are deployed in harm's way to defend the American way of life. And, let's ensure their families are taken care of while they're away from home.

"As Airmen, our cause is just and noble. Our country depends on us to stay the course.

"Thanks for all you do for America and our Air Force. May God bless you, and may God bless America."

Adapting to the AEF cycle: What it means to AFSPC

By GEN. LANCE LORD
Air Force Space Command commander

The Air Force Chief of Staff, General John Jumper, recently announced the Aerospace Expeditionary Force (AEF) cycle has been lengthened to a 20-month cycle and will have 120-day deployments.

This adjustment will help us provide better continuity to the combatant commanders as we continue to fight the Global War on Terrorism. Before AEF Cycle 5, deployments were approximately 90 days.

Experience has shown that this was not sufficient, as spin-up time and preparation for redeployment to home station eroded the usable time to 60 days or less. With 120-day deployments, continuity and usability of our deployment forces should be significantly increased.

Along with this change, every commander

in the Air Force has been tasked to expand his or her pool of deployable personnel.

In AFSPC, we need to posture all our authorizations in the AEF libraries, even those authorizations that had been exempt in the past. By doing so, senior leaders can prioritize mission requirements and better determine what capabilities the Air Force, and in particular AFSPC, can bring to the fight.

As an example, AFSPC previously did not posture our 20 AF missile field security forces. Now, however, they will be postured.

This will allow senior leadership to weigh mission priorities, risks and the ramifications of all forces and determine where best to deploy them.

It's important to keep in mind that all Airmen are deployable. Our AFSPC mission is essential to the fight and we have to ensure that our combatant commanders'

requirements are met, both in the deployed environment and here at our home stations.

In a recent "Sight Picture," the AF Chief of Staff said, "Every Airman—Active, Guard, Reserve and Civilian—must be focused on our national commitment to the Global War on Terrorism. Our job is to deploy and deal with terrorists wherever they are in the world..."

Every member of this command is crucial to the fight, whether launching, operating, securing or supporting an AFSPC weapon system or carrying a weapon in Iraq.

Everyone must do his or her part as we continue this battle.

Our people are our most precious resource and are key to our success as a command and an Air Force.

With the dedicated professionals in AFSPC, we will continue to bring the fight to the enemy and we will prevail.

Get ready for high flying excitement when Team V opens its gates for

Air & Space Show 2004

Oct. 30 and 31 on the Vandenberg Flightline

Keep your eyes to the skies over Vandenberg to see the following acts, air show teams and fly-bys:

- F-16 Tac-demo team from Hill AFB, Utah
- F/A-18 Tac-demo team from Naval Air Station Lemoore, Calif.
- A-10 West Coast Tac-demo team
- T-6 Tac-demo team
- F-16, A-10 & P-51 Heritage Flight team
- F-18, F-8F & F-4F Legacy Flight team

- Patriot jet team
- Eddie Anderini in his YAK 3
- Bill Cornick in his S-2C Pitts
- Dave Nash in his 540 Edge
- Rob Harrison in his Zlin 50
- Julie Clark Air Shows
- Tim Weber Air Shows
- Bill Stein Air Shows
- B-2 fly-by
- F-22 fly-by

Read the Space & Missile Times for updates

One for the road



PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS KURT GIBBONS

Airman 1st Class Matthew Reed, 30th Space Communications Squadron, cleans, prepares and packs lenses he will use during his upcoming deployment as a combat photographer. The 30th SCS provides real-time coverage of conflicts.

Destinations *Central Coast* **WANTS YOU!**

Have you visited a Central Coast destination lately? Share it with the rest of Team V! Send in a 400-600 word rough draft about your adventure! Send submissions to: space&missiletimes@vandenberg.af.mil

Crimebeat...

COMPILED BY SENIOR AIRMAN HARIS JOHNSON
30th Security Force Squadron

Aug. 30
Domestic dispute – midnight
An Airman reported a domestic dispute in base housing. 30th Security Forces Squadron patrols responded to the scene and contacted a witness, who said two Airmen were involved in a physical altercation. One Airman suffered minor injuries and was transported to Lompoc’s emergency room. The other Airman involved was apprehended for assault.

Sept. 1
Theft – 7:24 p.m.
An Airman’s spouse reported missing jewelry from her home in base housing. She said three necklaces; two bracelets,

three earnings, and one diamond ring all estimated at \$3,500 were missing from her home. 30th SFS investigators and the Office of Special Investigations were notified and are looking into the incident.

Sept. 3
Medical emergency – 8:38 a.m.
A retired Airman reported suffering from sever-abdominal pain at the Fam Camp. Medical crews were dispatched to the scene and transported the individual to Lompoc’s emergency room.

Suspected arson – 1:46 p.m.
An Airman reported a small fire at the Garden Street playground. Fire crews responded to the scene and extinguished the fire in three minutes. One hour later a fire was reported at the same location, fire crews responded to the scene and



extinguished the small fire. Security forces patrols searched the area for suspicious individuals but no suspects were found.

Sept. 4
911 Hang up/Verbal altercation – 10:41 p.m.
Fire dispatchers received a 911 hang up from a home in base housing. Security forces patrols were dispatched to the scene and discovered an Airman and his spouse having a verbal altercation. The Airman’s first sergeant was notified and took control of the scene.

This week in history...

COMPILED BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS BRYAN FRANKS
30th Space Wing Public Affairs

Sept. 12
1918 – Lt. Frank Luke shot down his first enemy balloon.
1990 – German occupation rights are relinquished. Representatives from the United States, Great Britain, France, and the Soviet Union sign an agreement giving up all occupation rights in Germany. The largely symbolic action cleared the way for East and West Germany to reunite.

Sept. 13
1943 – Over 1,200 paratroopers dropped on Salerno, Italy without loss of man or plane.
1976 – New book says war with Russia is greatest U.S. threat. A new book by two Brookings Institution scholars declares that the threat of war with Russia remains high and that the Soviet Union still poses the greatest danger to the security of the United States. The appearance of the study suggested that the period of “detente” between America and the Soviet Union was nearing its end.

Sept. 14
1944 – Americans launch Operation Stalemate-at extraordinary cost. On this day in 1944, the U.S. 1st Marine Division lands on the island of Peleliu, one of the Palau Islands in the Pacific, as part of a larger operation to provide support for Gen. Douglas MacArthur, who was preparing to invade the Philippines. The cost in American lives would prove historic.
1944 – A Douglas A-20 made a successful flight into a

hurricane to gather scientific test data.

Sept. 15
1940 – The Battle of Britain reaches its climax when the Royal Air Force downs 56 invading German aircraft in two dogfights lasting less than an hour. The costly raid convinced the German high command that the Luftwaffe could not achieve air supremacy over Britain, and the next day daylight attacks were replaced with night-time sorties as a concession of defeat.
1925 – The first semi-rigid helium airship constructed in the United States is completed.

Sept. 16
1620 – The Mayflower sails from Plymouth, England, bound for the New World with 102 passengers. The ship was headed for Virginia, where the colonists—half religious dissenters and half entrepreneurs—had been authorized to settle by the British crown.
1958 – The first delivery of F-104 Starfighters to Taiwan is announced.

Sept. 17
1941 – Paratroopers are used for the first time in an American exercise in 1941.
1978 – Camp David accords are signed. At the White House in Washington, D.C., Egyptian President Anwar el-Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin, begin sign the Camp David Accords, laying the groundwork for a permanent peace agreement between Egypt and Israel after three decades of hostilities.

POW/MIA Day

Remember those held prisoner of war or missing in action at 2 p.m. Sept. 14 in front of the base POW/MIA memorial.



Combat re-enactment by 30th Security Forces Squadron

381st prepares Airmen for High Ground

By 2nd Lt. Amelia Rolfes
392nd Training Squadron

Vandenberg’s 381st Training Group, provides all initial operations and maintenance training for the Air Force space and military operators.

“The Air Force’s credibility as the best fighting force in the world is only as good as our competence,” said Lt. Col. Samuel Epperson, 381st Training Support Squadron commander. “For all space and missile operators and maintainers that competence, through training, begins here in the 381st Training Group.”

Airmen attend training to receive initial qualification as operators in intercontinental ballistic missiles, space surveillance, missile warning, space-lift and satellite command and control. Airmen are also trained to maintain air-launched cruise missiles and ICBMs.

Instructors in the 381st Training Group realize the outcome of the next war may very well depend on how well we train today. Americans have entrusted their sons and daughters to us. We have no choice but to be the best,” Colonel Epperson said.

“The 381st Training Group is a center for education and training excellence. Our training group provides every space and missile operator and maintainer with a solid foundation on which they can build the rest of their career,” Colonel Epperson said. “Our duty is to ensure space and missile personnel have the foundational knowledge in their specific weapon systems and platforms to be highly qualified as they enter the field.

Activation of the group brought about the birth of four squadrons that make the mission of training students their top priority.



PHOTOS BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS KURT GIBBONS

Staff Sgt. Doug Sensenbrenner, 533rd Training Squadron, instructs one of his students on space surveillance and early warning systems.

392nd Training Squadron
The 392nd TRS is in charge of training officers and enlisted in the prerequisites of space and missiles. They also conduct ICBM initial qualification instruction and trains enlisted airmen in space operations.

532nd Training Squadron
The 532nd TRS is responsible for missile maintenance training.

533rd Training Squadron
The 533rd TRS conducts space surveillance and early warning training.

534th Training Squadron
The 534th TRS gives instruction in spacelift and satellite command and control initial qualification.

“We train about 2,500 students

annually. Our average daily student-training load is approximately 500 students,” Colonel Epperson said. “This includes enlisted, officers, and even a few international students such as Canadian, British, and Australian military members.”

Two types of enlisted and officer students attend training; cross training airmen and accessions. Enlisted students who come to the 381st TRG continue to build upon the military training that began during basic military training at Lackland AFB, Texas. These Airmen live in dormitories and must march from place to place during training.

Enlisted Airmen must successfully complete their technical schools before transitioning to operational units. With the exception of missile maintenance officers, all officers must complete prerequisite training before entering specific training for their operational specialty.

“The courses here at the schoolhouse are certainly challenging. None of them are easy and some are definitely more difficult than most college-level courses,” said Maj. James Wakefield, 532nd Training Squadron director of operations.

Officer and enlisted space and missile operators leave Vandenberg equipped with tools they can use throughout their careers.

“Our students learn military and self-discipline,” Colonel Epperson said. They learn how to study, they learn attention to detail, they learn customs



Staff Sgt. Micheal Raykoski and Master Sgt. Chris Bonner, 533rd Training Squadron go over a simulation before using it during class.

and courtesies, and how to function as a team. They also learn skills vital to their new profession. Essentially they learn how to be Airmen. These learned behaviors and character traits as well as the Air Force’s core values form the pillars on which students can build on the rest of their careers.”

One of the most important skills the unit tries to instill in students is teamwork.

“Nothing happens in the Air Force without it, and with it there’s nothing we can’t do. Our operators are trained to work as crews while our maintainers dispatch to the field or work in the bays as teams. At the 381st we get them started, give them the basic tools, and

show them how to capitalize on the individual strengths of each team/crew member to make the whole group stronger and more productive,” Major Wakefield said.

The mission of the 381st TRG correlates with the overall mission of the Air Force.

The Air Force’s mission is: to defend the United States and protect its interests through air and space power. The 381st TRG’s mission is one of the first steps to achieving Air Force mission success.

“There’s not a single mission in the Air Force or the entire military that doesn’t rely on space,” Major Wakefield said.



Staff Sgt. Alex Rodriguez, 533rd Training Squadron, trains students with simulation software that demonstrates real-world scenarios.

Family enjoys first-class Avila Beach

By CAPT. TODD FLEMING
30th Space Wing Public Affairs

We'd been having a tough time getting our kids to enjoy the beach. The few times we've taken them, Hannah, 4 and Rachel, 3, were afraid of the water and not all that thrilled with the sand. Avila Beach, about fifteen minutes north of Santa Maria, proved to be the answer.

On Labor Day, we loaded up the van with kids and headed to Avila Beach. I was mildly concerned the beach would be overcrowded, but it wasn't.

The beach's vast expanse of sand easily handled the influx of visitors over the holiday weekend.

What made Avila such a big hit with our girls is a natural area that resembles a swimming pool formed where a stream meets the ocean.

The back flow of water creates a large crystal clear two-to-three foot deep pool where kids can wade and play. And plenty of them took advantage of the opportunity. There were even a couple dogs cooling off from the afternoon sun by running around the inlet.

First Rachel, and then Hannah, became very comfortable wading around and splashing in the natural pool. From there they grew gradually braver until they were out in the ocean jumping waves by the end of the day.

The pool provided the perfect launching point and is highly recommended to anyone looking to introduce youngsters to the ocean. I also noticed parents pulling around babies on rafts in the inlet.

So, next time we'll go armed with a pull raft so the baby can join in the fun. On this trip, she spent most of her time rolling around the blanket and playing in the sand.

The weather was picture perfect, warm and sunny with a gentle breeze. Apparently, that is the norm at Avila. The beach has a reputation for being



Above: Rachel Fleming, 3, (left) and Hannah Fleming, 4, (right) drag their grandparents out into the waves. Right: Abigail chills out on the sand at Avila Beach.

one of the warmest and most pleasant beaches in California. The beach is surrounded by hills on both sides, giving it an intimate and friendly feel.

Although we didn't use them, there are two very large piers on each side of the beach open to the public.

There were also people renting kayaks on the beach to take out. They were renting at \$12. There is also a very nice kids' park with a big red pirate ship behind the beach and some food stands

that line the back of the beach. All in all, it is an extremely nice, well-kept beach. Even the rest rooms were clean.

I feel like we barely scratched the surface of what the beach has to offer. The next time we go, I we plan on checking out the piers.

Apparently, they house some great fish markets and locals claim the fishing off of them is pretty good.

On the way home, we stopped at the Avila Valley Barn, located conveniently

near the highway as you head out of the beach.

My wife shopped for some great fruit, vegetables, and pies while I entertained the kids with the help of some goats, ponies, pigs and other farms animals.

We had such a great day that we're already planning on going back next weekend. I was genuinely surprised we lived so close to such a first-class beach.



PHOTOS BY MAJ. KIMBERLY FLEMING

Community Calendar

10 FRI

Operations Kids' Christmas barbecue – 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. today in the base exchange parking lot. A choice of chicken, tri-tip or combination plate costs \$6.50 the day of the event or \$6 pre-sale. For pre-sale tickets call 606-8454 or 606-1307.

PALACE CHASE Separates – individuals separating from the Air Force through PALACE CHASE need to complete the mandatory pre-separation briefing at least 90 days prior to separation. Call 606-0039 for more information.

Animal Shelter Volunteers – The Lompoc County Animal Shelter needs volunteers for 4-6 hours a week. Join the Companion Animal Placement Assistance Volunteer Team at the Lompoc County Animal Shelter. Call 737-7754 for membership information.

Cheerleading Coach needed – Vandenberg Middle School competitive cheerleading squad is looking for an assistant coach. Call 605-0786 or 934-9916 for more information.

Partners Assisting In Reading – PAIR needs volunteers to work with students

at Crestview Elementary School. Call Julie Hegeman at 734-2549 or e-mail julsheg@yahoo.com for more information.

57th concert season – The Lompoc Concert Association sells season subscriptions for various concerts throughout the Lompoc Valley. For more information, call Vivian Dew at 733-4006 or Jean Jacoby at 736-8713.

Santa Maria Improv Team – Adults 18 or older call (805) 474-8954 or e-mail mpassarelli@charter.com to join the team.

The Maverick Saloon – Live music weekends. 510 South Broadway St., Santa Maria. Call (805) 922-9002 for more information.

CASA volunteers – Court Appointed Special Advocates provides volunteer advocates for children who have been removed from their homes due to abuse and neglect. Call Becky Reid at (805) 739-9102 for more information or to sign up.

Red Cross volunteers – Call Pat Nuth at 605-0042 or e-mail tesee1@juno.com for more information or to sign up.

American Thunder – noon to

2 p.m. Saturday at Mitchell Park on the corner of Osos and Pismo streets in San Luis Obispo. Barbecue is free to all military members in uniform. Call (805) 541-3950 for more information.

11 SAT

Girl Scouts Ice Cream Social – 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday on the lawn in front of the bowling alley. Girls in kindergarten through 12th grade and their families are invited for information and to register for a troop. Call Cheryl Willard at 606-1119 or (800) 898-6402 for more information

Stinky's Bar and Grill – DJ and dancing 9 p.m. Saturdays. 2430 South Broadway St., Santa Maria.

Rancho de Guadalupe Historical Museum – 1 to 3 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays or by appointment. Call (805) 343-5901 for more information.

12 SUN

Global Hearts Group – 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Sundays. Global Hearts invites eligible spouses and their families for dinner at Beachcomber dining facility. Call Tech. Sgt. Sheila White at 606-0039 for more information.

13 MON

Military Parents of the Central Coast – 6:30 p.m. the first Monday of each month at United Methodist Church. 1515 Fredericks St., San Luis Obispo. Call Janice Somers at (805) 549-9199 or Sharon Livsey at (805) 544-3930 for more information.

Computer resource room – 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday in the family support center. Computers are available to those who need access to the Internet for job searches, relocation assistance, or to stay in touch with family separated by military service.

14 TUE

Moms, Pops & Tots – 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Tuesdays at the fitness center annex. All 734-2448 or 734-0020 for more information.

School bus registration – 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays in building 10728.

Word Wizards – 7 p.m. Tuesdays. 519 West Taylor St., Santa Maria. Writers of any genre meet for reading and critiquing. Call (805) 929-2140 for more information.

Star performers at Bill's

Place – 7 to 10 p.m. Tuesdays. 112 East Branch St., Arroyo Grande. Call (805) 489-9989 for more information.

Disabled American Veterans – 9 a.m. Tuesdays in the Lompoc Veterans Memorial Building. 108 East Locus St., Lompoc. Rides are available to various appointments. Call Dan Contreras at (310) 477-2539.

Youth sign language classes – 3 to 3:50 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays at the education center. The class is for children in third through fifth grades. Call 734-0452 for more information.

15 WED

Reggae night – Wednesdays at the Frog and Peach Pub. 728 Higuera Rd., San Luis Obispo. Call (805) 595-3764 for more information.

Central Coast Chapter of the Society of Military Widows – 1 p.m. the second Wednesday of each month in the retirees' center here. Call (805) 937-6747 for more information.

Baby Meet – 9 to 10 a.m. Wednesdays in the Vandenberg Library. Participants should use the staff entrance. The group meets for discussion and socialization for expectant

parents and those with babies, newborn through two years old. Call 734-6606 for more information.

Special needs information network – 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. the third Wednesday of each month at the library. Call 734-2282 for information.

Back-to-School night – 6 p.m. Wednesday at Crestview Elementary School.

16 THU

AF Sergeant's Association meeting – 3:30 p.m. Thursday in building 8339, 2nd floor, room 2. AFSA is open to all active duty and retired enlisted military. Call 606-1568 for information.

24 THU

Women Infants and Children (WIC) – is moving to the Health and Wellness Center beginning Sept. 24.

29 WED

Education fair – 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sept. 29 at the Education Center Student Lounge. Call 605-5904 for more information.

OCT 2 SAT

Autumn Arts Grapes and Grains Festival – 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Oct. 2 at the Abel Maldonado Community Youth Center in Santa Maria.

Movie

Corner

BASE THEATER
I, ROBOT PG-13
7 p.m. TODAY
HAROLD & KUMAR GO TO WHITE CASTLE R
7 p.m. SATURDAY

Hi-Way Drive-in
Santa Maria Ph. 937-3515
RESIDENT EVIL 2 R
BOURNE SUPREMACY PG-13
DAILY 8:30 p.m.

Movies Lompoc
WICKER PARK PG-13
DAILY 4:30, 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.
SAT-MON 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m.
HERO PG-13

DAILY 4:45 p.m., 7:15 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.
SAT-MON 11:45 a.m. and 2:15 p.m.
THE PRINCESS DIARIES 2 G
DAILY 4:30 p.m., 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.
SAT-MON 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m.
WITHOUT A PADDLE PG-13
DAILY 4:45 p.m., 7:15 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.
SAT-MON 11:45 a.m. and 2:15 p.m.

Movies Gemini
RESIDENT EVIL 2 R
DAILY 4:30 p.m., 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.
SAT-MON 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m.
ANACONDAS PG-13
DAILY 4:30 p.m., 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.
SAT-MON 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Parks Plaza Buellton
WITHOUT A PADDLE PG-13
DAILY 2:15 p.m., 4:45 p.m., 7:15 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.
SAT-MON 11:45 a.m. and 9:30 p.m.
RIDRESIDENT EVIL 2 R
DAILY 2 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.
SAT-MON 11:30 a.m. and 9:30 p.m.
WICKER PARK PG-13
DAILY 2:00 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 7:00 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.
SAT-MON 11:30 a.m. and 9:30 p.m.
HERO PG-13
DAILY 2:15 p.m., 4:45 p.m., 7:15 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.
SAT-MON 11:45 a.m. and 9:30 p.m.
NAPOLEAN DYNAMITE PG
DAILY 2:15 p.m., 4:45 p.m., 7:15 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.
SAT-MON 11:45 a.m. and 9:30 p.m.

General Admission \$7.50; children and seniors \$5.50; shows before 5:30 p.m. \$5.50. Movies and times subject to change.

Chapel Services & Events

Call 606-5773 for other denomination worship services and events.

WORSHIP SERVICE TIMES
Sunday
8:30 a.m. Praise and Worship*, Chapel 2
10 a.m. Catholic Mass, Chapel 1
11:30 a.m. Traditional Protestant*, Chapel 1
11:30 a.m. Gospel*, Chapel 2
Monday - Friday
11:30 a.m. Catholic Mass, Chapel 2
Saturday
5 p.m. Catholic Mass, Chapel 2

*Only the traditional service in Chapel 1 will be held on 3-day holiday weekends.

A Sept. 11, 2001 Remembrance Service is scheduled for 11 a.m. Sept. 11 at Chapel 1.